

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A printing control method for controlling color tones of prints at a time of a printing operation having a PDL data creating process for creating PDL data, and a platemaking data creating process for creating platemaking data based on said PDL data, and a printing process for performing printing based on said platemaking data, wherein

said PDL data creating process includes:

a representative point setting step for setting positions of representative points with respect to areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine, for use in controlling color tones in images to be printed; and

a representative point information storing step for storing representative point information including information on the positions of said representative points set per respect to areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine; and

said platemaking data creating process includes:

an information receiving step for receiving said representative point information along with said PDL data;

a platemaking data creating step for creating said platemaking data based on said PDL data; and

a representative point information correcting step for correcting said representative point information, and for storing the corrected representative point information corresponding to the created platemaking data; and

said printing process includes:

an information receiving step for receiving said representative point information along with said platemaking data;

a printing executing step for executing printing with more than one color ink based on said platemaking data; and

a color tone controlling step for controlling the color tones of said representative points by using image data of the prints produced in said printing executing step by reading the image of the produced point and said representative point information received from said platemaking data creating process.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A printing control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said printing process is carried out for correcting the representative point information stored in said image data creating process.

4. (Original) A printing control method as defined in claim 1, further comprising: an image data correcting process for correcting said image data so that the color tones at the representative points set in said representative point setting step agree with target color tones; wherein said information receiving step is executed to receive said representative point information along with the image data corrected in said image data correcting process.

5. (Previously Presented) A printing control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said image data creating process includes a PDL data creating step for creating PDL data, and a platemaking data creating step for creating platemaking data based on said PDL data created in said PDL data creating step, said PDL data creating step and said platemaking data creating step using common representative point information.

6. (Previously Presented) A printing control method as defined in claim 5, wherein said platemaking data creating step is carried out for correcting the representative point information used in said PDL data creating step.

7. (Currently Amended) An image data creating apparatus for creating image data for producing prints having a PDL data creating unit for creating PDL data, and a platemaking data creating unit for creating platemaking data based on said PDL data, wherein:

said PDL data creating unit includes:

a representative point setting means for setting positions of representative points per
respective ink key areas of a printing machine for use in controlling color tones in images to be printed;

information storage means for storing, along with said PDL data, representative point information including information on the positions of said representative points set per areas on the image data corresponding to respective ink key areas of a printing machine; and

said platemaking data creating unit includes:

an information receiving means for receiving said representative point information along with said PDL data from said PDL data creating unit;

a platemaking data creating means for creating said platemaking data based on said PDL data,

a representative point information correcting means for correcting said representative point information, and for storing the corrected representative point information corresponding to the created platemaking data.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said representative point information stored in said information storage means is corrected.

10. (Original) An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising: image data correcting means for correcting said image data so that color tones at the representative points agree with target color tones; wherein said information storage means is arranged to store said representative point information including said information on the positions of said representative points along with the image data corrected by said image data correcting means.

11. (Original) An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising: PDL data creating means for creating PDL data, and platemaking data creating means for creating platemaking data based on said PDL data created by said PDL data creating means, said PDL data creating means and said platemaking data creating means using common representative point information.

12. (Original) An image data creating apparatus as defined in claim 11, wherein said platemaking data creating means is arranged to correct the representative point information used by said PDL data creating means.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)